

COUNTRY _____ REPORT _____

TOPIC Military Information from Plauen 25X1

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EVALUATION _____ PLACE OBTAINED _____ 25X1

DATE OF CONTENT _____

DATE OBTAINED _____ PREPARED 20 March 1953 25X1

REFERENCES _____

PAGES 2 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE) _____

REMARKS _____

This is UNEVALUATED Information

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1. From 2 to 19 February 1953, the Hindenburg Kaserne north of Neuendorfer Strasse and Werder Strasse in Plauen quartered about 700 troops who wore black-bordered crimson epaulets, including some with artillery insignia. The quarters were 95 percent lighted at nightfall. On several days during the period of observation, about 20 soldiers trained with 4 x 120-mm mortars and other soldiers with 2 or 3 x 57-mm AT guns. About 50 other soldiers engaged in firing practice with carbines, submachine guns, and heavy and light machine guns. Trucks _____ were identified in the billeting area at about 11 a.m. on 5 February. About 150 soldiers with carbines and some with submachine guns left the barracks installation toward Zwoschwitz on 16 February. They were followed by 12 trucks including 2 towing a 57-mm AT gun each and 1 towing a field kitchen. The trucks were loaded with billeting equipment, such as mattresses, blankets, pots, small stoves and fuel. _____ About 150 soldiers engaged in combat practice at the military post drill grounds, about 3 km west of Plauen, daily during the time of observation. 25X1
2. From 2 to 19 February, the Koenig-Georg Kaserne on the south side of Neuendorfer Strasse quartered about 400 troops who wore red-bordered black epaulets including 20 to 30 percent with artillery insignia and about 5 percent with motor transport insignia. Residents stated that recruits were exchanged for trained personnel in January. Two 122-mm field howitzers were seen in the billeting area. From 20 to 25 soldiers were daily seen leaving the installation for firing practice in the Kirchbach Kaserne. About 15 to 25 soldiers with carbines and practice targets were seen on several days as they left the barracks installation for the Schneckengruen target ranges. Truck _____ entered the Koenig Georg Kaserne. 25X1
3. From 2 to 19 February, the Kirchbach Kaserne between Zadera Strasse and Kopernikus Strasse was occupied by 200 to 250 troops who wore red-bordered black epaulets who wore artillery insignia and black-bordered black epaulets including some with signal insignia. On 16 February, 10 to 12 soldiers engaged in aiming practice with 2 x 76-mm field guns in the northwestern section of the billeting area. Troops practiced firing with carbines and submachine guns on the target range in the southwestern section of the installation almost every day. Motor vehicles _____ were identified in traffic from and to the installation. 25X1
4. On 9 February, the Hindenburg Kaserne was occupied to capacity by troops who wore black-bordered crimson epaulets. Between 2 and 4 p.m. on 5 February, about 400 troops organized into several groups and equipped with 2 x 82-mm mortars, 5 heavy

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machine guns, 8 light machine guns, 2 range finders, rifles targets and cable reels marched into the installation from the Kobitschwalde drill grounds. They were followed by trucks [redacted] towing an AT gun, and [redacted] On 6 February, about 90 soldiers practiced with 8 tanks and 3 SU-76 guns on the Schneckengruen drill grounds. Motor vehicles identified in traffic from and to the barracks installation [redacted]

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5. From 3 to 9 February, the Koenig Georg Kaserne was occupied by troops who wore red-bordered black epaulets. On 5 February, about 360 troops engaged in close-order drill and march practice in the barracks yard. Four trucks were seen in the yard.
6. From 3 to 9 February, the Kirchbach Kaserne was occupied by 300 troops. Sentries wore red-bordered black epaulets. The quarters were fully lighted at dusk. About 40 soldiers drilled in the barracks yard on 5 February. About 30 soldiers entered the installation from the direction of the water tower at about 2 p.m.

[redacted] Comment. The observations [redacted] confirm the 112th Gds Mtz Rifle Regt as well as the 87th Gun Arty Regt of the 39th Gds Mtz Rifle Div as being stationed in their post until mid-February 1953. It appears that several-day exercises of combined arms with tanks were conducted near the post. Another report [redacted] indicated that tanks of the 220th Hv Tank SP Regt from Glauchau also participated in the field exercise. [redacted]

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